

the best examples of Physiological Races ; for here we find not only different forms hatching out from broods differing, *apparently*, in nothing but seasonal time of deposition, but the same female will produce offspring of a totally different colour-pattern.

## A new Race of Crested Weaver from Angola.

Dr. DAVID BANNERMAN sent the description of a new race of Crested Weaver from Angola, which he proposed to name

***Malimbus malimbicus granti*, subsp. nov.**

*Description*.—Examination of four males, one female and two nestlings of the Crested Weaver or “Malimbe” from Northern Angola, collected by the late Dr. W. T. Ansorge so long ago as 1908, shows that it differs from typical *Malimbus malimbicus malimbicus* (Daudin) in the following small particulars :—Both sexes have the belly and lower part of the breast dull smoky brown, the upper breast glossy black, and the contrast between the two very marked ; in *adults* of the typical race the belly is darker brown and the contrast correspondingly less apparent. In *M. m. granti* the red of the crown and crest, and to a lesser extent on the throat of the male, is brighter, more scarlet and less crimson ; the black frontal band is distinctly broader—a character which it shares with the Upper Guinea race (*M. m. nigrifrons* (Hartlaub)).

The only adult female specimen examined shows equally marked differences, the crown and throat being paler red and the belly greyer brown, when compared with females of the typical race.

An even more striking difference is to be found in the young, for both in nestlings (of which I have examined two from Ndalla Tando) and in the well-grown immature bird (of which there is an example from Loanda) the whole throat is washed with dull crimson, more or less uniformly, once the nestling stage has been passed.

The crest in the four adult males from Angola is exceptionally well developed, but the slightly longer crest may not be a constant character.

Finally, the bill and wing measurements of Angolan birds are larger when compared with specimens of the typical race.

Wings : ♂ 85–88, ♀ 80 mm. (Angolan specimens).

♂ 81–86, ♀ 75–79 mm. (Cameroons, typ. race).

*Distribution*.—Northern Angola (Ndalla Tando and Loanda), from which adults and immature have been examined, and *perhaps* Cameroon, but see Note.

*Note.*—Two specimens in immature dress, having the dull crimson throat which is characteristic of the immature of the Angolan bird, are in the British Museum, both collected by G. L. Bates in Cameroon, one at Assoham, Bumba River, the other at Bitze on the Ja River. These specimens agree with immature examples with dull crimson throats from Angola and have puzzled me considerably, for out of nine immature birds of *M. malimbicus malimbicus* obtained in Southern Cameroon, including some at Bitze, every one has a black throat or a black throat with the bright scarlet feathers of the adult bird moulting.

It seems from the series in the National Collection that at no stage of its existence does the typical *M. malimbicus malimbicus* have the throat uniformly washed with crimson.

I hesitate to give the Angolan bird *specific* rank until it is proved, by the additional collection of adult examples in Cameroon, to occur side by side with *M. m. malimbicus*. That the Angolan bird is distinct from the typical race, even though the type localities are not far distant, I have no shadow of doubt, and were it not for the two overlapping immature specimens from Cameroon I should unquestionably consider the Angolan bird a geographical race of *M. malimbicus malimbicus* and no more.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. ♂ adult. Ndalla Tando, North Angola, December 12, 1908, W. J. Ansorge Coll.; Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1909.8.5.228.

*Measurements.*—Bill 18–19; wing, ♂ 85–88, ♀ 80; tail, ♂ 50–59, ♀ 51; tarsus, ♂ 22, ♀ 20 mm. Four males, one female measured.

In addition two nestlings were examined from Ndalla Tando, one immature bird from Loanda, two immature, apparently of this race, from Cameroon.

*Remarks.*—I have much pleasure in naming this new Weaver in honour of Captain Claude Grant (Editor of 'The Ibis') in recognition of the help he has given me in so many ways while attempting to work out this difficult group of Weavers, and as a tribute to the splendid work he is doing in conjunction with Lieut.-Colonel Mackworth-Praed on the birds of East Africa.

### Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. GRANT and Lieut.-Colonel C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following seven notes:—

(1) On the Status of *Coturnix coturnix erlangeri* Zedlitz, J. f. O. 1912, p. 344: Cunni, near Harar, eastern Abyssinia.

Hilgert, Kat. Coll. Erl. 1908, p. 419, shows that Zedlitz had four adult males, all taken in the month of May. These are listed in this